



## **Downtown Transit Mall Rail Rehabilitation Project**

### **Project Overview**

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) light rail system is one of the longest to be built in the U.S. in the past 50 years. It stretches for 42.2-miles throughout Santa Clara County, serving the communities of Campbell, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Milpitas and south, central and east San Jose.

The trackway in downtown San Jose has been in continuous use since construction in the late 1980s and has experienced significant rail wear, especially at locations with small radius curves. This wear has resulted in increased “wheel squeal” at those locations.

In addition, to address concerns regarding the noise created by light rail vehicles negotiating the curves, lubricants have been regularly applied to the rails and a number of granite pavers adjacent to the trackway now require cleaning or replacement.

### **Project Scope**

The Downtown Transit Mall Rail Rehabilitation Project will replace the curved rail at the corners of First and Devine streets, Second and Devine streets, and Second and San Carlos streets. In addition, adjacent granite pavers will be removed and cleaned or replaced, and new concrete poured, as necessary. Work at the two Second Street locations is scheduled for this spring, while work at the First and Devine location will take place this fall.

Similar track rehabilitation work at the intersection of First and San Carlos streets was completed in 2005.

Although most construction activities will be done during the day, approximately two nights of work at each Second Street location will be necessary, as will two weekends of continuous construction. Hours of the weeknight work will be 7 p.m. to 4 a.m. and the weekend work will begin late Friday night and continue until completion, but no later than early Monday morning.

The weekday work involves removing granite pavers and transporting them offsite for cleaning. A temporary concrete slurry will be poured to replace the removed pavers. The approximately two weeknights of work consists of concrete sawcutting. The first full weekend of work at each intersection will include the demolition of existing concrete, placing the new rail and pouring concrete. During the second weekend of work, the temporary concrete slurry will be removed and granite pavers reinstalled.

Neighborhood and business impacts, pedestrian safety, traffic flow in the downtown area, and public transit service have all been carefully considered during the scheduling of this project.

Traffic lane closures will be necessary on Devine, Second and San Carlos streets while crews are working, and the only full street closure is of San Carlos Street between First and Second streets during the full weekends of work at that location.

In addition, pedestrian detours will be necessary at the Second and Devine location, while the sidewalk will remain open but temporarily reduced in width at Second and San Carlos streets.

Impacts to local residents may include noise from the daytime removal of granite pavers, nighttime concrete sawcutting and demolition, noise generated by concrete trucks and other construction vehicles, and pneumatic tools and air compressors.

Impacts to light rail users include the total shutdown of light rail service on two different weekends in the downtown area, with substitute bus service instead being offered.

### **Project Schedule**

While VTA and its contractors strive to thoroughly investigate conditions before beginning work, conditions in the field can require changes in construction techniques or to schedules. All necessary updates will be posted to VTA's website and distributed by e-mail to interested stakeholders.

#### *Second and Devine streets*

March 31-April 11, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.—Granite paver removal

April 21-23, 7 p.m. to 4 a.m.—Sawcutting

May 9-11, continuous 9 p.m. Friday until completed—Demolition, rail work, concrete pour

October—Granite paver replacement

#### *Second and San Carlos streets*

April 14-18, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.—Granite paver removal

April 23-25, 7 p.m. to 4 a.m.—Sawcutting

April 25-27, continuous 9 p.m. Friday until completed—Demolition, rail work, concrete pour

May 9-11—Granite paver replacement

#### *First and Devine streets*

Work is tentatively scheduled for October

### **Cost**

Stacy & Witbeck, Inc. has been awarded a construction contract for \$1,791,940.

### **How to Contact Us**

If you have any question concerning the Downtown Transit Mall Rail Rehabilitation Project, please contact VTA Community Outreach at (408) 321-7575, TDD for the hearing-impaired (408) 321-2330.

If you wish to receive electronic e-mail updates about the project, please contact: [community.outreach@vta.org](mailto:community.outreach@vta.org). Project information will also be posted in the construction update section at [www.vta.org](http://www.vta.org).